186. Administrative Reforms.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara taluk, Group I*) said that Government did not attempt to solve the serious problems of constitutional importance which confronted them. Though the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was 26 years old, it deteriorated in powers and status from year to year. Its members had no right to ask questions, to move resolutions, to legislate or to discuss the budget. Those powers had been granted long ago to the Popular Assembly in Mysore.

It was high time to overhaul the constitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and to invest it with some responsibility and power.

The Legislative Council in Travancore was one of the oldest in Indian States. But several important matters relating to the welfare of the people were excluded from its purview. As the head of the administration was also the President of the Council, members could not fully and freely discuss Government policy. The rulings of the President curbed the growth of the institution. Government reserved to themselves the power to veto, or to hold in abeyance, resolutions passed in the legislature. The exercise of those powers by Government made the Council an impotent body. Full responsible Government should be introduced if the Legislative Council were to become a useful institution. A Cabinet or Executive Council, consisting of the Dewan, two members of the Legislative Council and one or two members of the Assembly should be created. That body should be responsible for its actions to the Council and the Assembly and through them to the people of the country.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, I shall give a common reply after hearing all the members who propose to speak on the subject.

187. Administrative reforms.

MR. C. PERCY BHANU (*Pattanapuram taluk*) said that the educational system of the country stood in need of reform. Different courses of studies should be prescribed for boys and girls. Agricultural and vocational training should be introduced in the school curricula. The great disparity between the scales of pay of the different grades of teachers should be removed. The pay of teachers in vernacular schools should be enhanced.

There were innumerable dispensaries in the State which were conducted by persons who had no knowledge of medicine. In consequence those dispensaries became, so to speak, the plague spots of the country. Only qualified persons should be given licenses for medical practice. Hospitals for women should be opened in all important places. Nurses and midwives should be appointed in every village. A tuberculosis hospital should be opened in the State. Arrangements should be made for lectures on epidemic diseases being delivered in rural areas by medical men. Officers of the Sanitary Department should take a more active interest in their work.